The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accurate and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1773 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1945 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 35, NO. 14

Slave Labor Bill Doomed In Congress As Mobilization Chief Byrnes Quits

Washington, D. C.—This is V-S Day for American workers because the slave labor bill under consideration by Congress is dead.

While the final Senate vote had not been taken as this edition went to press, both sides agree that the legislation in its present compulsory form is doomed to defeat for these reasons:

1—The imminence of victory in Europe makes labor conscription unnecessary.

2—The report by War Mobilization Director Byrnes letting the cat out of the bag that the Government intends to use the powers contained in the labor draft after the war is over and during the reconversion period.

3—The resignation of Mr. Byrnes as War Mobilization Director.

The final surprise action proved the clincher. Senator Edwin C. Johnson, of Colorado, who wrote the "compromise" manpower measure approved by Senate and House conference committees, turned against his own brainchild when he heard the news.

"Byrnes is now going back to civilian life, isn't he?", asked the Senator, implying that he saw no reason why workers should be coerced when the official designated to administer the labor draft was quitting his war post.

Senator George D. Aiken, of Vermont, touching on the same theme, said:

"There's no provision in the bill for freezing the Director of War Mobilization who would have the responsibility of administering the labor draft war workers."

Several Senators who had indicated previously their intention of voting for the conference report retreated rapidly when Byrnes revealed in a report to Congress that the contemplated controls would extend to production of civilian goods and even into the reconversion period.

Even Chairman Elbert D. Thomas of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, who has led the forces for the labor draft since it was requested by the President, conceded that Byrnes had dealt it a fatal blow.

"I believe that Byrnes was ill-informed," he said. "I believe he made a mistake."

Meanwhile, Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon disclosed in his maiden speech on the Senate floor that he had received "pressure telephone calls" from Administration officials expressing "fear that unless they have some such bill as this after hostilities have ceased, they can't meet unemployment in this country."

Senator Morse added:

"It is incomprehensible that there is need for forced labor in essential industries when cutbacks are already at hand.

"If we pass a bill to conscript labor, then we will have lost the peace at home even though we have won the war abroad. Instead of helping war production, this bill would be a great handicap to war production."

Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, of Wyoming, leader of the opposition to the punishing legislation, said that when the Senate rejects the conference report he will move to send the whole matter back to another joint conference between Senate and House in the hope of prevailing upon the House to consider the voluntary manpower plan originally approved in the upper house.

The prospects for the forced labor bill were dimmed also when Administration strategists were grasping at this straw on the theory that some manpower legislation would be better than none, from their point of view.

The American Federation of Labor approved the O'Mahoney-Kilgore Bill originally adopted by the Senate with the exception of one amendment providing for fines and jail penalties.

AFL Hero Awarded Silver Star For Rescuing Wounded Comrade

Washington, D. C.—The Silver Star, high Army Medal, has been awarded to Cpl. Ulmont J. Andorfer, 20-year old member of Window Glaze Cutters League of America, AFL, formerly employed at Pittsburgh Plate Glass, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, for crawling to the assistance of a wounded comrade under a heavy assault of enemy fire. Andorfer also holds the Purple Heart for wounds received in rescuing his companion.

The action took place in the China-Burma-India theater on June 16, 1944, during an attack on a Jap position strongly defended with machinegun and rifle fire. According to the War Department citation, Andorfer, "although in great pain, remained with the wounded soldier until they reached a position of safety. His actions are representative of the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States."

Andorfer has now returned to duty with the famous Marx Task Force somewhere in the Burma-China theater. He has a brother in the Army, Lt. Robert L. Andorfer, who is also a member of Window Glass Cutters in Mt. Vernon, as was their father, a veteran of World War I, now dead.

Machinists Union's War Record Lauded At Testimonial To Harvey Brown

Washington, D. C.—Congress, for a change, rescinded its usual practice of labor union, when Rep. Hugh DeLacy of Washington spelled attention to the achievements of the International Association of Machinists in an eloquent speech.

Himself a member of the union, the Congressman hailed the war production records broken by machinists in 8,000 key plants throughout the nation and the devotion of the membership to the no-strike pledge.

His address on the floor of the House followed a testimonial dinner in New York City to President Harvey W. Brown of the I.A.M. which was marked by tributes and commendations from President Roosevelt and leaders of labor and government agencies.

The President, in a message to the dinner, congratulated Mr. Brown for "constructive, capable and outstanding leadership in the labor movement" and said he joined with the union chief's associates in "their praise of what your leadership has helped to achieve in the direction of making weapons of war with which we are overcoming the enemy on all fronts."

AFL President William Green lauded Mr. Brown's tenacity of purpose and the dedication given by the union, under his direction, to the rehabilitation and re-employment of war veterans.

Other speakers included Senator Pepper of Florida, and Adjutant General James A. Ulio of the U. S. Army.

Responding to the eulogies, Mr. Brown called upon labor to solidify its ranks now so that American workers will be able to withstand the onslaughts of post-war developments.

"Adequate wages are the only guarantee of continuity of employment and the only certain way of averting crushing deflation and depression," he emphasized. "If wholesale unemployment arises in this country again, democratic institutions will stand in jeopardy."

Chinese Labor Using U. S. Gifts To Better Conditions of Workers

Washington, D. C.—A year and a half ago American workers contributed $700,000 to aid the Chinese Association of Labor in its efforts to ameliorate the distressing conditions of Chinese workers who have been bombed by many years of war and many centuries of economic oppression.

Now comes the first eye-witness report on the great good that is being accomplishing. This report is contained in a letter to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration from Benjamin H. Kizer, director of its China office at Chungking. He wrote:

"On learning of my interest, Dr. Sweet took me to the Labor hall. It was shortly before 8 a.m. on a Sunday morning but the place was going full tilt. The secretary of the union took us about the place, of which he was obviously very proud, and eagerly described all the various facilities to us.

"He was most proud of its little hospital, or clinic, for the treatment of sick or injured miners and members of their families. As I went through it, I noted all of the economical and ingenious arrangements made to take care of the sick.

"As we left the place, two men appeared, carrying on a stretcher an elderly woman, seriously ill. As they came near, the doctor went out and greeted the son of the patient carry her inside for treatment.

"I was told that it takes $80,000 in Chinese money to support the hospital and clinic, which includes the physician's salary. This is equivalent to $140 in U. S. money at present rates of exchange.

"The hospital has shower baths, a dormitory, a recreation room and meeting hall. The baths and dormitory are chiefly for the use of miners who have to and from the mines. The whole place is kept spotlessly clean and order and the tener of its posters is in support of organized labor and the war effort.

"The whole of the place is run not only with the ability of great pains, but with that incredibly patient economy of the Chinese, designed to make a little go a long way.

"I should say that the members of the AFL and CIO are certainly getting a great deal done with their money."

GREEN SUPPORTS WAGE DEMANDS OF MINERS

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green pledged support to the United Mine Workers in their current critical fight for wage adjustments.

"The miners have always received too little and never too much," he declared in a public statement. "The American Federation of Labor stands with the mine workers in support of the justifiable fight which they are making to secure decent wages and humane conditions of employment. It is my opinion that the coal operators should have promptly granted all of the demands which the miners made."

Extension of the existing contract pending further negotiation on terms of a new agreement was directed by the International War Labor Board and agreed to at the last moment, thus averting another coal strike at least temporarily.

MUNITIONS OUTPUT SHOOTS UP 20 PER CENT

Washington, D. C.—The daily rate of production during February in the 13 most critical programs of the war effort shot up 20 per cent over January, despite the worst weather conditions in years—and without a labor shortage.

That figure is certified to by the War Production Board in a progress report of munitions put out by Hiland G. Batcheller, WPB chief of operations.

IBEW WINS ELECTIONS AT TWO UTILITY FIRMS

Washington, D. C.—The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers scored two more gains in its fight to bring the entire utility industry under the union banner.

Latest utilities to be added to the fold are the Florida Power Company, with headquarters at St. Petersburg, and the Ohio Power Company of Southern Ohio Electric Company, Columbus, Ohio. The Brotherhood won National Labor Relations Board elections among the employes of both firms.

RETAIL CLERKS TRIUMPH IN BIG ELECTION TEST

Boston.—The Retail Clerks International Protective Association won one of the largest and most impressive election victories in the union's history in a poll conducted by the National Labor Relations Board among employes of the Jordan-Marsh Co. here.

The vote showed a total of 933 workers choosing the AFL union as their collective bargaining agency while 574 cast their ballots for no union. John J. Murphy, regional AFL organization director, assisted the AFL union in the organizing campaign.

NEW STATE LABOR SCHOOL TO BE OPENED IN NEW YORK

Albany.—New York State's new labor school, the first State-supported institution of its kind in America, will open this Summer at Cornell University. An appropriation of $200,000 will be asked to cover the first year's expenses. President Frederick E. Murray of the New York State Federation of Labor will serve on the board of trustees.

Tuition in the school will be free and courses will be designed to promote better understanding between workers and employers. Such subjects as collective bargaining, mediation, arbitration, social security, workmen's compensation, personnel management, union organization, economics, sociology will be taught.

PUBLIC UTILITY WORKERS JOIN ELECTRICIANS UNION

Washington, D. C.—Another utility, the Public Service Company of Colorado, Denver, agency, has been brought into the fold of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The National Labor Relations Board certified the I. B. E. W. as bargaining representative in the election by better than a 2-to-1 majority.

The union was also certified for employes of radio station KOW, San Jose, operated by the Pacific Agricultural Foundation. The I. B. E. W. defeated the "independent" National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians in an election at the station by a 3-to-1 margin.

THE AFL PRESENTS . . .
'BUILDERS OF VICTORY'
The Dramatic Story of Labor's Own Seabees
OVER CBS—EVERY SATURDAY—5:45 P.M., E.W.T.

Labor-Management Charter Adopted To Encourage Post-War Recovery

Praise For New Pact Is Given By FDR and Other Leaders

Washington, D. C.—Leaders of Government, Congress and the press hailed the adoption of the new labor-management charter as an augury of better times in America after the war.

President Roosevelt said in a letter to AFL President Green:

"I am very pleased to learn of your plans to organize a committee of representatives of industry and organized labor to insure the continued close cooperation between labor and management to win the war and the peace.

"The close cooperation between labor and management during the war has made possible our great and unexcelled achievements in war production. That close cooperation must be continued if possible the full employment of labor and capital under our system of free competitive enterprise when hostilities end.

"I hope that you will press forward with your plans and report to me from time to time the progress achieved. I shall be happy to cooperate with you in every way possible."

Governor Dewey of New York said:

"This is a striking demonstration of the kind of progress we can make in America once we agree on principles and then determine to work them out peaceably together.

"It is only by a real understanding, on both sides, of the basic problems of labor and industry, that we can have the greatest production and labor peace, which will be essential in the difficult days ahead."

Winthrop W. Aldrich, chairman of the board of the Chase National Bank, declared that "a great step forward" had been taken.

"We cannot afford industrial strife after the war," Mr. Aldrich said. "This new code of principles provides the framework for that voluntary method of settling differences which is essential in a democracy. It would seem both unnecessary and unwise for Government to intervene in the proceedings until labor and management have had every opportunity to settle their differences among themselves."

Charles E. Wilson of the General Electric Company, made this statement:

"If these principles and rules of action are accepted and observed by labor and management in dealing with each other, many of the doubts and suspicions that have plagued their relations in the past will disappear. The important thing is that these fine words be translated into action down the line. To that end management and labor must lend every effort."

Other comment follows:

Sen. Saltonstall, of Massachusetts—I believe it is a great step forward and I hope that the parties to the agreement will keep the ball rolling.

Sen. O'Mahoney, of Wyoming—This charter of industrial cooperation is the best possible evidence that there is no necessity for the vassals (forced manpower) that we are asked to support. This is a demonstration of the capacity of a democracy to function in a free way. It is a demonstration of the complete lack of reason for applying force to the civilian population of the greatest republic that ever existed on the face of the globe.

Sen. McCarran of Nevada, stressing the importance of the charter, had its complete text read to the Senate and inserted in the Congressional Record.

Newspaper editorials and radio commentators were profuse in their praise of the agreement. The only sour note came from President Mosher of the National Association of Manufacturers who took part in the early conferences that led to the agreement but pulled out before it was signed.

Text Of The Charter

Following is the text of the charter entered into by representatives of the American Federation of Labor, the United States Chamber of Commerce and CIO:

We in management and labor firmly believe that the end of this war will bring the unfolding of a new era based upon a vastly expanding economy and unlimited opportunities for every American. This peacetime goal can only be attained through the united effort of all our people. Today, we are united in national defense. Tomorrow, we must be united in the national interest.

Management-labor unity, so effective in boosting war production to unprecedented heights, must be continued in the postwar. To this end, we dedicate our joint efforts for a practical partnership within the framework of this code of principles:

1. Increased prosperity for all involves the highest degree of production and employment at wages assuring a steadily advancing standard of living. Improved productive efficiency and technological advancement must, therefore, be constantly encouraged.

2. The rights of private property and free choice of action, under a system of private competitive capitalism, must continue to be the foundation of our nation's peaceful and prosperous expanding economy. Free competition and free men are the strength of our free society.

3. The inherent right and responsibility of management to direct the operations of an enterprise shall be recognized and preserved. So that enterprise may develop and expand and earn a reasonable profit, management must be free from unnecessary governmental interference or burdensome restrictions.

4. The fundamental rights of labor to organize and to engage in collective bargaining through representatives of its own choosing shall be recognized and preserved, free from legislative enactments which would interfere with or discourage these objectives. The process of collective bargaining between labor and management shall be encouraged and promoted. Through the consummation of collective bargaining agreements, differences between management and labor shall be disposed of between the parties through peaceful means, thereby discouraging avoidable strife through strikes and lockouts.

5. The independence and dignity of the individual and the enjoyment of his democratic rights are inherent in our free American society. Our purpose is to cooperate in building an economic system for the nation which will protect the individual against the hazards of unemployment, old-age and physical impairments, beyond his control.

6. An expanding economy at home requires a vastly increased foreign trade. Arrangements must therefore be perfected to afford the devastated or undeveloped nations reasonable assistance to engage in the rebuilding and development of sound economic systems. International trade cannot expand through subsidized competition among the nations for diminishing markets but can be achieved only through expanding world markets and the elimination of any arbitrary and unreasonable barriers.

7. An enduring peace must be secured. This calls for the establishment of an international security organization, with full participation by all the United Nations, capable of preventing aggression and insuring lasting peace.

Management and labor both agree that their primary duty is to win complete victory over Nazism and Japanese militarism. They also agree that they have a common joint duty, in cooperation with other elements of our national life and with government, to prepare and work for a prosperous and sustained peace. In this spirit they agree to set up a national committee, composed of representatives of business and labor organizations. This committee will seek to promote an understanding and sympathetic acceptance of this code of principles and will propose such national policies as will advance the best interests of our nation.

Leaders Of Industry And Labor Agree On 7-Point Code

Washington, D. C.—Labor and management paved the way for the establishment of industrial peace and prosperity in the post-war period by adopting a charter for cooperative relations.

Parties to the precedent-shattering agreement, announced at one of the largest press conferences in Washington's history, were the American Federation of Labor, the United States Chamber of Commerce and the CIO. The National Association of Manufacturers withheld its immediate participation, although many employers affiliated with that organization approved the pact.

The seven-point charter, aimed at maximum postwar production with full employment at high wage levels, gave recognition to the rights of private property on the one hand and to labor's right to organize and bargain collectively on the other. It pledged support to the establishment of social security and to international organization for world peace and called for expansion of world trade.

To implement the charter a permanent committee will be set up. This committee will formulate joint labor-management policies and will present them to the Government for action and approval. By this means, labor and management propose a maximum of self-government and a minimum of Government regulation.

Named to the committee at the outset were:

For the American Federation of Labor—President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and International Representative Robert J. Watt.

For the CIO—President Philip Murray, R. J. Thomas and Sidney Hillman.

For industry—President Eric Johnston, of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce; Paul C. Hoffman, president of the Studebaker Corp. and chairman of the Committee for Economic Development; Henry J. Kaiser, outstanding war industrialist; Otto Seyferth, president of the West Michigan Steel Foundries; Edward J. Thomas, president of Goodyear Tire & Rubber, and Harold Zellerbach, president of the Crown-Zellerbach Paper Corp.

Mr. Johnston, in announcing the pact which was developed after months of negotiation, declared there are two roads America can travel after the war.

"One will lead to a high degree of industrial peace," he said. "The other will lead to industrial chaos. One will mean high levels of employment, high levels of wages, high levels of production—in other words, prosperity. The other road will lead to lowered employment, lowered wages, lowered standards of living and, of course, bankruptcy, eventually."

The labor-management agreement, Mr. Johnston declared, shows the determination of labor and industry to follow the first road.

Speaking for the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Green said:

"We subscribe wholeheartedly to the code of principles embodied in the charter.

"Through acceptance of these principles, the area of controversy within the field of human relations in industry has been reduced and the field of agreement and understanding has been increased. It means the substitution of industrial democracy for autocratic control and cooperation instead of antiquated individual decisions within the domain of labor-management activity.

"We look for most valuable results from the application of this code of principles. It is not perfect. It will not eliminate strife altogether. But we can reduce them, we can substitute arbitration and cooperation and friendly understanding for the strife and bitterness that have characterized industrial relations.

The charter, it was disclosed, will be submitted to the AFL Executive Council for approval at its next meeting and also to the executive boards of the other organizations.

Mr. Johnston said the charter was the outgrowth of a long period of realization "by all of us" to push for better labor-management relations in the post-war period. He emphasized that the code is dynamic rather than static and will have to be interpreted and applied by the National Labor-Management Committee. This committee, he indicated, would set up a permanent staff and deal with specific problems and policies.

Muse Uses "Sucker" Lists To Get Funds For Christian American Ass'n

New York City.—By confession of its own chief, the "Christian-American Association, Inc." is a "sucker" racket designed to get contributions from wealthy men for the purpose of campaigning for anti-labor legislation before State Legislatures.

This is the conclusion to be drawn from an investigation of the association by the Scripps-Howard newspapers. Frederick Woltman, who conducted the investigation and wrote a series of articles on the subject, interviewed Vanse Muse, the notorious promoter of the association.

Muse, he reported, emphasizes the word "Christian" in the name of his association and insists that the object of his "crusade" is to "promote Americanism, religion and righteousness and combat evil forces that would destroy faith in God and Jesus Christ, the church, the home and the American system of government."

But when Mr. Woltman asked Muse what church he belonged to, the promoter confessed:

"I don't belong to any church. I never joined one."

Mr. Woltman's article continued:

"I found Muse was a smart promoter—but strictly a promoter. He cuts no ice whatever in his own State (Texas). He wraps himself in the flag, quotes the Bible and operates by means of an apparently inexhaustible set of mailing lists.

"'Call them sucker lists if you like,' Muse told me," Mr. Woltman reported.

Muse operates out of Houston, Texas, where, in a small office, "Muse, his wife and twelve clerks grind out one-page weekly releases, enough to wallpaper half of Houston in a year's time."

Before his present crusade, Muse toiled diligently for bankers, industrialists and others to kick the New Deal, high taxes, high tariff; propagandized for the sales tax (a Senate committee called his project 'taxing a loaf of bread'), and he fought the 8-hour day for railroads.

"Even now Muse runs a sideline. He promotes the Federal amendment sponsored by Frank Gannett's Committee for Constitutional Government. This would put a 25 per cent ceiling on all Federal income, gift and inheritance taxes, compared to the present 94 per cent limit.

"Rather proudly, Muse conceded it was he who printed and distributed the photographs of Mrs. Roosevelt at Howard University (established in Washington by Congress) and Federal government to provide Negroes with higher education) that were used widely in the South to stir racial prejudice against her.

"His 'conscience' and his 'granddaddy,' who wore the Confederate uniform,' Muse explained, 'forced' him to circulate them."

CALIFORNIA LABOR SCHOOL OKAY FOR VETERANS

San Francisco.—The California Labor School has been accredited by the Veterans Rehabilitation Administration. This makes the school eligible to veterans for full or part time study under the GI bill of rights. It is the first institution of its kind in the nation to receive this recognition.

A number of veterans have already signed up for the spring term beginning April 9, one having sent in his application while he was still in service in the South Pacific. Classes especially suited to ex-servicemen's needs are being prepared by Dr. Holland Roberts, educational director.

STRIKE LOSSES AGAIN REPORTED ON DECLINE

Washington, D. C.—Strike losses are still running below last year. In February, man-days of idleness due to stoppages amounted to 412,000, or only 6/100 of 1 per cent of time put in by the nation's workers during the month, the Department of Labor revealed this week. For the same month of 1944 the loss was 470,000 man-days.